



The Sydney Morning Herald.

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Fifteen Shillings per Quarter, Single Numbers, Sixpence. Country, Sixteen Shillings and Sixpence per Quarter. VOL. XVII. TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1844. NO. 2147.

For one inch and under, Three Shillings, and One Shilling for every additional inch, for each insertion.

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THE SHIPPING GAZETTE,

AND SYDNEY GENERAL TRADE LIST.

THE second number of the Shipping Gazette was published on Saturday, and will be continued every Saturday after-

noon, with instructions

England, to be given to the

Packet Agents, and

to the shipping

ENGLISH EXTRACTS.

REVIEW.

(From the *Colonial Gazette*.)
The Sandwich Islands: Progress of events since their Discovery by Captain Cook; their occupation by Lord George Paulet; their Faits and Importances, by ALEXANDER SIMPSON, Esq., late acting there as Her Majesty's Counsel. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1843.
 This pamphlet may be regarded as a statement of the case of Lord George Paulet; and the author, Mr. Simpson, the two parties concerned in the occupation of the Sandwich Islands, which her Majesty's Government have not seemed fit to sanction.

Even on the assumption that Government has done right in refusing to receive the cession of these Islands by their King, Mr. Simpson makes out a clear case in favour of himself and Lord George. Neither could, consistently with their duty, have acted otherwise than they did. Whether Government ought to have rendered their temporary acceptance of the cession final, is another and entirely independent question. They are fully justified, let that question be answered either in the affirmative or negative.

With regard to the part taken by the Government, it would be unfair to condemn it on an ex parte statement. There may be reasons yet unrevealed, justifying its disregard of the considerations put forward by Mr. Simpson. But the reasons must be strong indeed which can justify this disregard.

The independence of the Sandwich Islands is a mockery. The people are serfs of the King and the chiefs (male and female) comprising his cabinet. "And this King in Council is a mere tool," for the possession of which three parts—the missionaries, "American traders, and the Hudson's Bay Company"—are contending. The missionaries' land, "a tool for a while, by appealing." The American traders to any exertion. The Hudson's Bay Company have got King and Council \$10,000,000 for debts to the amount of

Now, if the kingdom of the Sandwich Islands choose to be governed by such a combination, that is their concern, so long as the rights and persons of British subjects are respected. That has not been the case. The rights and persons of British subjects have been grossly injured. The Government was either unable or unwilling to afford redress. And the Government can give no sufficient guarantee that these rights will be better respected in future. Are we to leave our countrymen at the mercy of political machinations, or traders of a nation not remarkable for its fair and friendly disposition to us, or of a company which vies all its transactions and all regions over which its power extends under impermeable secrecy? We give back the Islands to Kamehameha III. in so far a stalking-horse to any of these three parties which may be in the ascendant for the time, from behind which it can attack the rights and interests of the British trader. All three are alike anxious to exclude him from the Islands. Government will discover this ere long—but it may be too late to retrace the false step that has been taken. Had the cession to Lord George Paulet been accepted, no nation had any right to speak a word against it; the silly agitation of popular disinterestedness in regarding it, and uniting France and America into our enemies, has thrown almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of our taking redress in this manner for the next outrage of the Sandwich Islands' Government; and for that outrage we shall not have long to wait.

Mr. Simpson's work contains in brief space a clear and instructive history and statistical description of the islands. We subjoin a few extracts, partly as specimens, partly for the information they contain.

THE NATIVES.

The natives have always lived in great huts, which are simple in style, in that consist, or cleanliness, since their coming into the civilised man.

Their food is an aquatic bulbous plant (see *Encyclopædia*), called in the native language *hala*. This root, being baked in an oven of heated stones, is pounded into a paste, which is mixed with water, and after standing for a few days becomes soft, and is then called *poi*. This is eaten with fish, and that only as a relish, forming the sole food of the natives. They desire no other, and, whatever else they eat, they are never satisfied without their *poi*.

The *poi* is so prolific, and so nutritious, that it is an ascertained fact that a patch of forty feet square will, if carefully attended to, yield a ton of *poi* per acre, and is sufficient for the support of a family of three in a square mile will maintain 15,000 inhabitants.

The land, to produce *poi*, requires to be continually flooded to the depth of four or five inches. To effect this, such skill and an immense amount of labour were applied to terrace the valleys, and conducting the running streams through the land, which were all divided by substantial walls. The necessity for this labour has been the cause of the superior industry belonging to the natives of the Sandwich Islands, compared with those of the Marquesas Society, and other Polynesian groups, where the bread-fruit affords the means of subsistence.

Of this industry, and of the concentration of effort which the feudal system rendered possible, the godlike *hala* walls, run out to form fish-walls—some extending upwards of three miles—are perfect proofs; though they are, also, the work of a native, with no irrigation, falling into disuse, indeed the *poi* is not now required to their former extent; in consequence of the immense diminution of population, to be now diverted to.

The early navigators, the inhabitants of the several islands of the group were estimated as not less than 400,000. This was the estimate made by Captain Cook, and his officers. Subsequent explorers, considering the statements of the *assent*, and the statements of the older and more intelligent natives, as well as the indications of a country once extensively cultivated, corroborate it, and prove the fact that there was, at a period by no means remote, a thick population, spread over those portions of the group, suited for the production of the favorite food of the natives.

In little more than sixty years the population had decreased down to one-fourth of the number when the islands were discovered, and the process of depopulation continues to go on rapidly. An accurate census, taken by order of the King in 1825, placed the whole population at 130,113, and, in 1840, in 1840, it was placed at 113,379.

This is a frightfully rapid decrease in a country where wars and pestilences have long been unknown, where the climate is most favourable to health, and where food can be procured by a very slight exercise of industry.

Important mention of this subject is made.

Captain fully the causes of the importance of this group would occupy much space, I

shall briefly point out that it is situated in the centre of the north Pacific, on the highway between America and China; that it is but a short distance from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, of which the trade is already important and valuable; that it is equally near to the Columbia River, and the bay of St. Francisco, the outlet to the ocean of that vast territory known as the Oregon, which is fast colonizing by American citizens, and which will, undoubtedly, ere long, become a great, powerful Anglo-Saxon state on the shores of the Pacific; a state which will command the whole coast of America and the Northern Pacific. It is so placed as to give its possessors the command of the whale fishery of the Northern Pacific. American vessels in this business number upwards of two hundred, and the annual product of them is not less than £1,000,000 sterling. The English and French vessels frequenting the coast do not amount to one-half of this number. In the summer months this large fleet cruises between the Sandwich Islands and the coast of Japan, for the capture of sperm-whale, and in the Northern Ocean, between the Sandwich and Aleutian Islands, for the capture of the black whale, and passes the winter within the tropics of the sperm-whale.

NOTES FOR COLONIZATION OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Nor is there in natural advantages for colonisation; on the contrary it abounds therewith. I shall barely

mention the following:

1. The superficial extent is equal to that of the island of Jamaica (8000 square miles).

2. Its climate is tropical, but so tempered by sea-breezes as to be healthy in the extreme.

3. Its soil, the lower grounds, is admirably suited for the culture of every tropical product; the sugar-cane being indigenous, and yielding a sugar of the richest quality.

4. The climate is the richest land of Cuba; while, on the uplands, the various species of grain and vegetable of the temperate region grow luxuriantly.

5. Its population is about 100,000, in number—industrious, tractable, and comparatively civilised; and it will be easy to bring labourers from China and the other groups of islands to supply the demands which might occur, were English capital and English energy introduced.

6. The favourable geographical position of the Sandwich Islands as a depot for commerce will be somewhat illustrated by the following abstract of merchant vessels arrived there during the year 1842:—

Vessels	Tons
From Chile and Peru	3 1117
Mexico	22 4377
Guatemala	2 328
1	212
Columbus River	6 172
England	5 668
United States	5 1085
	9435

Of these 45 vessels, 17 were English, 16 American, 1 French, 1 Hamburg, the remainder Mexican, Chilean, and Peruvian.

The imports by these vessels for consumption in the group amounted to £40,000, principally cotton goods; and the largest article of export was sugar.

BRITISH WHALERS.

The British whalers engaged in the whale fishery in the South Seas, during these years, out from the Australasian and North American colonies, number scarcely 150; while not fewer than 400 American vessels are employed in this pursuit in the oceans between the Asian and American continents; and the quantities of oil produced are more than unequal to that of the number of ships, being (in 1838) 42,000 tons by the Americans, and 12,000 by English ships. The consumption is in the inverse of this proportion.

While I regret that such a large share of this branch of commerce should be in the hands of this maritime nation, I must confess that I should be sorry to see the number of British whalers engaged in it under the present system increased.

For a vessel, or vessel, both

equally good, to be a

success, it is necessary that

the crew be well provided for.

When such men are thrown together

for a voyage of forty-five fifty days duration, passing weeks in liaison, inactivity, and

passion, it is necessary that the crew be well provided for.

With these sentiments, and the respect which you maintain,

I am, yours, &c., HENRY BATHURST.

North Creek, Burnham, Norfolk, Nov. 11.

me now, as a friend still of Ireland, speak though I point to my father's monument and say, "Is there no greater sinners, one graver, than the Irish?—which the trade is already important and valuable; that it is equally near to the Columbia River and the bay of St. Francisco, the outlets to the ocean of that vast territory known as the Oregon, which is fast colonizing by American citizens, and which will, undoubtedly, ere long, become a great, powerful Anglo-Saxon state on the shores of the Pacific; a state which will command the whole coast of America and the Northern Pacific. It is so placed as to give its possessors the command of the whale fishery of the Northern Pacific. American vessels in this business number upwards of two hundred, and the annual product of them is not less than £1,000,000 sterling. The English and French vessels frequenting the coast do not amount to one-half of this number. In the summer months this large fleet cruises between the Sandwich Islands and the coast of Japan, for the capture of sperm-whale, and in the Northern Ocean, between the Sandwich and Aleutian Islands, for the capture of the black whale, and passes the winter within the tropics of the sperm-whale.

And whom do you call 'blood-thirsty,' &c.?

These very men, Sir R. Peel, the Duke of Wellington, who declared that he would run

any risk rather than shed the blood of his native country in civil strife. But if you do not guard your proceedings more than you in many cases have done, will I, for fear, make his hawks his resolutions? Forsooth has reached its uttermost. Turn to me, then, to those great and good men, and say, "We have stirred the matter sufficiently for the present; only take fairly into consideration the proposition of a federal union with Great Britain with a sufficient *franchise* for local purposes, and if such a plan feasible, if you can show instances of difficulty in the way, we will submit our report for the right of other demands, that is, a simple repeal of the Act of Union."

But the ages of misgovernment of Ireland

have brought us to that state that something effectual and general must be done, some radical cure for the diseased state of society in Ireland; and whether England does not require some stronger and more searching measures of practical relief for the lower orders than any yet taken, we will show.

Let this be your language! and without any

fees of an impudent craven spirit, prove thus a

benefactor to your country! and you may yet

redress the load which will be your inheritance

to your posterity.

It is at present difficult to

ascertain the extent of that

which is now

done, and is

done, and is